

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

USAFE RAMSTEIN

USCINCEUR STUTTGART

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MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: RECALCITRANT SPD DEPUTIES ENDANGER COHESION OF NRW  
GOVERNMENT COALITON

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. TEN SPD LANDTAG DEPUTIES ARE THREATENING TO  
OVERTHROW THE SPD/FDP COALITION IN NRW OVER CONTEMPLATED  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION REFORM AFFECTING THEIR AREA. THEIR  
RECALCITRANCE MAY EASILY HAVE FAR REACHING REPERCUSSIONS ALSO  
ON FEDERAL LEVEL AND CHANGE THE SCENE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.  
THE NRW/FDP HAS PRACTICALLY POSED THE COALITION QUESTION SHOULD  
THE SPD DEPUTIES REMAIN ADAMANT AND VOTE FOR A CDU DRAFT, THE  
CONSTITUTIONALITY OF WHICH IS DOUBTFUL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A LETTER DATED NOV 18, 1976 TO NORTH RHINE-WEST-  
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PHALIAN (NRW) MINISTER PRESIDENT HEINZ KUEHN, TEN SPD LANDTAG

DEPUTIES HAVE SERIOUSLY ENDANGERED THE EXISTING SPD/FDP GOVERNMENT COALITION IN NRW. IN THEIR LETTER THE DEPUTIES ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD VOTE WITH THE CDU OPPOSITION SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE GOVERNMENT DISTRICTS (REGIERUNGSBEZIRKE) IN THE RUHR.

3. THE GROUP OF SPD DEPUTIES, HEADED BY LORD MAYOR ERNST WILCZOK OF BOTTROP AND LORD MAYOR WERNER KUHLMANN OF GELSENKIRCHEN, WANTS TO PREVENT BY ALL MEANS THAT THE CITIES OF BOTTROP AND GELSENKIRCHEN AND THE COUNTY (KREIS) OF RECKLINGHAUSEN ARE SHIFTED FROM THE MUENSTER TO THE ARNSBERG DISTRICT. ALL SIGNERS OF THE LETTER COME FROM THE AREAS AFFECTED.

4. AFTER THE LAST LANDTAG ELECTIONS IN 1975 THE SPD AND THE FDP AGREED IN A COALITION AGREEMENT THAT THE RUHR SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY TWO GOVERNMENT DISTRICTS (DUSSELDORF AND ARNSBERG). THIS REQUIRES THAT THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE RUHR BE TAKEN AWAY FROM MUENSTER AND ADDED TO ARNSBERG.

5. HANS KOCH, CHAIRMAN OF THE FDP FACTION IN THE NRW LANDTAG HAS DECLARED THAT HIS FACTION WILL INSIST ON THE TERMS OF THE COALITION TREATY AND HAS THREATENED SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES (READ: BREAK-UP OF THE COALITION) SHOULD A GROUP OF SPD DEPUTIES BREAK THE COALITION TREATY.

6. THE FDP, INCLUDING ITS DEPUTY EYKMANN, WHO HAD AT FIRST CONSIDERED JOINING THE GROUP OF TEN SPD PROTESTERS, AND THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE SPD FACTION ARE CONVINCED THAT THE DRAFT LAW OF THE CDU IN THIS FIELD IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. THE DRAFT LAW WOULD TRANSFER AUTHORITY FOR ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS TO THE LANDTAG. THE CONSTITUTION PRESENTLY GIVES THE LAND GOVERNMENT (THE EXECUTIVE) THE RIGHT TO MAKE SUCH DETERMINATIONS.

7. IN THEIR LETTER THE TEN SPD DEPUTIES THREATENED KUEHN THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT THE CDU DRAFT WHICH IS TO BE INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT ON NOV 25, 1976. THE CDU NEEDS ONLY SIX ADDITIONAL VOTES TO PASS ITS DRAFT LAW. HOWEVER, THE LAW COULD BE HELD UNCONSTITUTIONAL; IN THIS CASE A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY WOULD BE REQUIRED, WHICH THE CDU COULD NOT MUSTER

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EVEN WITH THE SUPPORT OF SPD DISSENTERS.

8. THE LEADERS OF THE SPD IN NRW REGARD THE CONFLICT AS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER. A LEADING SOCIAL DEMOCRAT EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THE AFFAIR COULD HAVE NATION-WIDE EFFECTS IF KUEHN DID NOT SUCCEED IN BRINGING THE RECALCITRANT DEPUTIES TO REASON. KUEHN HIMSELF IS ON A THREE-DAY VISIT TO SENEGAL. NRW/SPD FACTION CHAIRMAN DR. DIETHER HAAK HAS TOLD US THAT

THE PARTY HAD A PALACE REVOLUTION ON ITS HANDS.

9. COMMENT: THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE CDU ACTION WAS TO PRESERVE THE FULL INTEGRITY OF THE MUENSTER GOVERNMENT DISTRICT CHIEFLY BECAUSE IT IS HEADED BY A CDU MAN. THE DISRUPTION CAUSED BY THE SPD DISSENTERS IS A WELCOME BY-PRODUCT FOR THE CDU BUT COULD LEAD TO FAR MORE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. THE NRW/FDP FACTION HAS PRACTICALLY POSED THE COALITION QUESTION. SHOULD THE NRW SOCIAL-LIBERAL COALITION BREAK UP, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT BECAUSE OF THE STRONG DUSSELDORF-BONN INTER-RELATIONS A RENEWAL OF THE SPD/FDP COALITION ON FEDERAL LEVEL WILL BE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED.DUX

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